

CT Coronary Angiogram – Patient Information

ESSENTIAL STEPS TO PREPARE FOR YOUR SCAN:

The rate at which your heart beats is critical to the success of the test. Please make an appointment to see your GP as soon as practical so that your heart rate can be checked, and any necessary medication prescribed. **PLEASE BE SURE TO DO THIS IN TIME TO ALLOW ANY MEDICATION (IF NECESSARY) TO BE PRESCRIBED, COLLECTED, AND TAKEN FOR 2 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCAN.**

Please be sure to take this letter and the attached sheets with you when you visit your GP.

Please do not have anything to eat or drink for 3 hours prior to the test.

Do not drink any tea, coffee, or cola on the morning of your test.

Do not smoke for 3 hours before your test.

CT Based Cardiac Examinations

The heart is a muscular pump that circulates blood to nourish all the organs of the body. This blood is fed into the heart through three main vessels (coronary arteries) which sometimes get narrowed or blocked leading to angina or a heart attack. Using a CT scanner it is now possible to get useful information about the condition of coronary arteries.

The first part of the test involves measuring the amount of calcium in the coronary vessels which reflects the amount of fatty deposit or atheroma that may have built up in these vessels. This part of the test does not require any preparation, and takes only 15 minutes. As you lay on the table the scanner takes pictures of the heart, during which you will be exposed to a low dose of radiation. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MAY BE PREGNANT.

We may need to proceed to the second part of the test to gain more information. This involves an injection of a substance (contrast agent) through a small plastic cannula (needle) placed in one of the veins in the arm. This will show up the coronary arteries more clearly. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY ALLERGIES TO CONTRAST MEDIUM. (Medical staff will help you if you do not know what a contrast agent is)

The pictures of the scan will be analysed by the doctor and you will be informed, in due course, of the result and any further treatment or investigations required.

If you have any concerns regarding the test please contact us on 01702 385036